

THE PERISCOPE

VIP'S FOR ELLSBERG?

Lawyers defending Daniel Ellsberg, the man who delivered the Pentagon papers to the press, have some headline-getting moves in mind. For the trial, scheduled in Los Angeles early next year, they want to summon as witnesses a long list of Federal officials, including former President Johnson and Defense Secretary Robert McNamara. They hope to show that LBJ and others used secret documents in writing their memoirs and will try to get McNamara to state that he never ordered the Pentagon study stamped secret.

THE WOOING OF ILLINOIS

President Nixon is taking no chances with voters in Illinois, a state he carried in 1968 by a tiny 135,000 votes (out of more than 4 million cast). Next month, he will make his fourth trip to Illinois since June, to speak at two GOP fund-raising dinners, and Illinois Republicans say he plans at least a dozen trips to their state by Election Day 1972.

KING COTTON IN SUDAN

Sudan could end up paying a very high price for its crackdown on its Communists, which virtually wiped out the biggest Communist Party in the Arab world. Reason: the Soviet Union, which broke relations with Khartoum following the anti-Red purge, is the biggest buyer of Sudan's cotton, source of 60% of the country's foreign earnings; Russia also has been Sudan's chief arms supplier. Sudan's pro-Soviet years cost it much of the markets it had in Britain and India. Now the Sudanese are worried lest they lose Russia too. To make matters worse, this year's cotton crop is a record 1.5 million bales.

A HORSE RACE IN KENTUCKY

Next year's election for U.S. senator from Kentucky, long considered a sure thing for veteran GOP Sen. John Sherman Cooper, has become a horse race. Cooper has finally convinced GOP strategists that he means it when he says he will not seek another term. The forecast is for a tight fight between incumbent GOP Gov. Louie Nunn and Democratic ex-Gov. Ned Breathitt.

ANTI-PESTICIDE ALARM

The environmentalists are sounding the tocsin against a pesticide-control bill about to get the blessing of the House of Representatives.

Besides overriding the states' jurisdiction over these products, the bill also would prevent citizens from seeking judicial action. Anti-pollution forces contend that every significant move against pesticides has been initiated by private actions in court.

NEW ODDS IN MICHIGAN POLITICS

Michigan's GOP Sen. Robert Griffin has reversed the odds on his returning for another term in 1972. Only weeks ago, the Democrats considered him eminently beatable. Since then, Griffin has been named—by Mr. Nixon himself—as the man who persuaded the White House to repeal the auto excise tax, a guarantee of campaign funds from Detroit. Griffin has also promised to add an anti-busing clause to the proposed constitutional amendment for equal rights for women, thus pre-empting the hottest issue in Michigan.

COMEBACK FOR THE ROTC

The Reserve Officers Training Corps, long a favorite whipping boy for campus activists, seems to be on the comeback trail. College ROTC enrollment is about the same this year as last—but the number of schools offering it has risen to 374, an increase of 27. The number of high schools with ROTC has jumped from 874 to 952. And college rosters should get a boost from a bill, expected to get Congressional approval this year, raising pay for upper-class ROTC students from \$50 to \$100 a month.

THE IRA'S NON-BOMBS

The newest tactic by Irish terrorists in Belfast involves ordinary wooden boxes filled with dirt. Shoe-box-size and wrapped in brown paper, they are planted, at a rate of about six a day, in bank doorways, public rest rooms and other spots. The trick is that the boxes look exactly like the deadly gelignite "Castle Robin" bombs (named for the Belfast area that first saw them). The purpose of the dummies is to keep overworked British bomb squads chasing after hoaxes, thus increasing the odds they will miss a real one.

CATCH '72

The President was so pleased with the work done on Capitol Hill to stop a bill allowing scheduled Federal pay raises to take effect next January that he promoted the two liaison men who did the job. Catch '72: to avoid public relations problems, all hands have agreed to forgo the salary hikes due until the wage freeze thaws.